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REPORT

to the

HONORABLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

of the

SANTA CLARA VALLEY
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

on

Proposed
Cross-Valley Canals

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July 7, 1952

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Santa Clara Valley Water Conservation District

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REPORT ON PROPOSED CROSS-VALLEY CANALS

Subject: Proposed Cross-Valley Canals.

Honorable Board of Directors:

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to your Resolution No. 307, passed and adopted by your Honorable Board on the 7th day of April, 1952, instructing the undersigned to make a report on transporting water from the eastern side of Santa Clara Valley to percolation areas on the western side of said Valley, this report has been prepared and is hereby presented to your Honorable Board.

Need of Project

In average years, the amount of water impounded in the two reservoirs presently located on the Coyote River (that is, the Leroy Anderson and the Upper Coyote) is considerably more than can be percolated within the easterly side of the District. This results in a surplus supply of such water on the east side in average years as well as wet years.

The essential function and value to the District of the canals described in this report is best illustrated by example. During the winter just past (1951-1952) both reservoirs on Coyote River were filled to their combined capacity of 100,000 acre feet. To realize how much water this means it might be stated that the Leroy Anderson Reservoir is 7½ miles long, or as far as from San Jose to Sunnyvale. Water is released during the dry months for percolation into the Valley's underground gravel strata which in reality constitute huge underground storage reservoirs. But the absorption beds on the Coyote are limited in comparison with the amount of water available in this area for percolation. It must also be remembered that in normal years inflow from the stream into the Coyote Reservoir continues until well into the summer. It now appears likely that by the end of this summer the Coyote reservoirs will still retain approximately 75,000 acre feet. The result is that these two Coyote Reservoirs will be able to capture only 25,000 acre feet of the following winter's floods. The excess must go to waste. Given another wet winter such excess that could not be impounded would amount to 75,000 acre feet of vitally needed water. But if the District were able to transport water to areas on the west side of the Valley where more percolation is possible, it will be readily seen that the need to carry over great quantities of stored water and consequent lack of storage space for the following winter's floods will be obviated.

It is therefore advisable and of value to the District as a whole to transport water from the Coyote system to the broad capacious spreading and absorption beds of gravel of the District's Alamitos Percolation Ponds at the junction of the Guadalupe and Almaden Creeks.

There will be, likewise, in wet years, a surplus derivable from the District's Lexington Reservoir. For most efficient use such surplus Lexington water should be transported to the Saratoga Creek and the westerly area of the Santa Clara Valley where there is good percolation area but a limited water supply.

Description of Project

The transportation of water from the Coyote system to the Alamitos Percolation Pond can be accomplished by constructing a gravity canal from Coyote River, just north of the Metcalf Road, passing under the 101 Highway and the Southern Pacific Railway in an inverted syphon, following along the northerly base of the Santa Teresa Hills and terminating at the Alamitos Percolation Pond adjacent to the District Warehouse on Almaden Road.

Excess water to be impounded in the District's Lexington Reservoir may be transported by means of a second gravity canal, with incidental pumping lifts, to be constructed from the present terminus of the Vasona Canal to a point on Saratoga Creek in the general area of Prospect Road or Cox Road. Such excess water will then be available for percolation in the San Tomas Aquino Creek and Saratoga Creek for the benefit of underground storage in the westerly area of the Santa Clara Valley.

Bond Issue Recommended

It is estimated that the sum of $600,000.00 will meet the cost of acquiring the necessary rights of way and of constructing the cross-valley canals above described, as well as the cost of the bond election and the administrative, legal and clerical costs incidental thereto, and it is recommended that the authorization of the voters of the District be sought for a bond issue in said amount for said purposes. In the event there remains from and out of said sum of $600,000.00 a surplus after the construction of said cross-valley canals and the acquisition of the necessary lands, and rights of way, for said cross-valley canals, as well as the cost of the bond election and the administrative, legal and clerical costs incidental thereto, it is recommended that such surplus be used for the completion of other works, properties and structures necessary and convenient for the conservation works of the District.

DATED: July 7th, 1952.

Respectfully submitted by,
G. W. HUNT,
Chief Engineer.

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